

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-31: PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED

Claims 32-40: PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED

41. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling the usage by an attached function of network services associated with a network system that includes the attached function, one or more other attached functions and one or more network infrastructure devices, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. acquiring information about an attached function seeking access to the network services;
- b. associating a level of trust with the information about the attached function;
- c. granting to the attached function preliminary entry to the network system based upon the information acquired;
- d. determining whether a stored policy history exists for the attached function;
- e. if the stored policy history exists for the attached function, establishing in a [packet forwarding device] central switching device of the network infrastructure connected to the attached function one or more static and dynamic policies for the attached function for network services usage based upon the stored policy history;
- f. if no stored policy history exists for the attached function, establishing for the attached function one or more static and dynamic policies for network services usage;
- g. monitoring the network system for triggers including triggers unrelated to the information acquired about the attached function; and
- h. modifying in the [packet forwarding device] central switching device one or more static and dynamic policies for the attached function upon the detection of one or

more of the monitored triggers, wherein the decision whether to modify is made at the central switching device.

42. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 41 wherein the step of modifying for the attached function one or more of the static and dynamic policies is performed independent of any action of the attached function.

43. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 41 wherein the step of modifying for the attached function one or more of the static and dynamic policies comprises the step of changing a static policy to a dynamic policy.

44. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 41 wherein the step of modifying for the attached function one or more of the static and dynamic policies comprises the step of changing a dynamic policy to a static policy.

45. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 41 wherein the static and dynamic policies relate to usage policies by the attached function of any network service and not solely ingress and egress to and from the network system by the attached function.

46. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 41 wherein the step of modifying for the attached function one or more of the static and dynamic policies occurs per flow.

47. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 41 wherein the step of modifying for the attached function one or more of the static and dynamic policies occurs per session.

48. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 41 further comprising the step of saving set and modified policies associated with the attached function as the stored policy history for the attached function.

49. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 48 further comprising the step of establishing rules of hierarchy for saved set and modified policies.

50. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 49 wherein the attached function is connected directly to the central switching device and wherein a portion of the saved set and modified policies are stored on the [packet forwarding device] central switching device to which the attached function is directly connected and a remainder of the saved set and modified policies are stored on a server to which the attached function is not directly connected.

51. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 50 further comprising the step of overriding saved set and modified policies stored on the server with saved set and modified policies stored on the [packet forwarding device] central switching device.

52. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 48 further comprising the step of invalidating the saved set and modified policies upon the occurrence of a specified event.

53. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 41 wherein the only static policy is that there are only dynamic policies.

54. (Currently amended) A method of controlling the usage by an attached function of network services associated with a network system that includes the attached function, one or more other attached functions and one or more network infrastructure devices, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. acquiring information about an attached function seeking access to the network services;
- b. granting to the attached function preliminary entry to the network system based upon the information acquired;
- c. establishing in a [packet forwarding device] central switching device of the one or more network infrastructure devices connected to the attached function one or more static and dynamic policies for the attached function for network services usage;
- d. monitoring the network system for triggers including triggers unrelated to the information acquired about the attached function;

- e. modifying in the [packet forwarding device] central switching device one or more of the static and dynamic policies for the attached function upon the detection of one or more of the monitored triggers, wherein the decision whether to modify is made at the central switching device;
- f. saving set and modified policies associated with the attached function as a stored policy history for the attached function; and
- g. establishing rules of hierarchy for saved set and modified policies.

55. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 54 wherein the step of modifying for the attached function one or more of the static and dynamic policies is performed independent of any action of the attached function.

56. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 54 wherein the attached function is directly connected to the central switching device and wherein a portion of the saved set and modified policies are stored on the [packet forwarding device] central switching device to which the attached function is directly connected and a remainder of the saved set and modified policies are stored on a server to which the attached function is not directly connected.

57. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim [[57]]56 further comprising the step of overriding saved set and modified policies stored on the server with saved set and modified policies stored on the [packet forwarding device] central switching device.

58. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 54 further comprising the step of invalidating the saved set and modified policies upon the occurrence of a specified event.